

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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ACTION SS-25

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P R 232047Z JUN 75

FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9194

INFO AMEMBASSY BOGOTA

AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN

AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN

AMEMBASSY KINGSTON

AMEMBASSY MEXICO

AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN

C O N F I D E N T I A L CARACAS 6445

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR TD VE

SUBJ: MEETING WITH THE PRESIDENT--ERIC WILLIAMS' ATTACKS ON VENEZUELA

REF: (A) CARACAS 6376; (B) STATE 146704

1. PRESIDENT CARLOS ANDRES PEREZ TOLD ME DURING OUR BREAKFAST MEETING JUNE 21 THAT HE HAD INFORMATION FROM SEVERAL DISTINCT AND UNCONNECTED SOURCES IMPLICATING THE CIA IN WILLIAMS' ATTACKS ON VENEZUELA. THE AGENCY'S OBJECTIVE, ACCORDING TO THESE SOURCES, IS TO SUPPORT THE OIL COMPANIES BY CREATING PROBLEMS FOR THE GOV AS IT ATTEMPTS TO NATIONALIZE THE PETROLEUM INDUSTRY. PEREZ ADDED THAT, NEVERTHELESS, HIS GOVERNMENT PLANS TO CONTINUE TURNING THE OTHER CHECK TO WILLIAMS.

2. I TOLD THE PRESIDENT THAT HIS INFORMATION WAS WRONG; THAT I COULD ASSURE HIM CATEGORICALLY WE WERE NOT INVOLVED THROUGH THE CIA OR OTHERWISE WITH WILLIAMS IN THIS MATTER. I OBSERVED THAT WE COULD HAVE NO POSSIBLE INTEREST IN CREATING PROBLEMS BETWEEN THE GOV AND THE GOTT AND REMINDED THE PRESIDENT OF THE HISTORY OF DISPUTES BETWEEN PORT-OF-SPAIN AND KINGSTON.

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3. PEREZ CONCEDED THAT WHAT HE CALLED "RIVALRY" BETWEEN THOSE

TWO CAPITOLS COULD BE A FACTOR BUT NOTED SUSPICIOUSLY THAT WILLIAMS WAS NOW ON HIS WAY TO WASHINGTON. I SAID I WAS UNAWARE THAT THE PRIME MINISTER'S ITINERARY INCLUDED WASHINGTON AND COULD ONLY REPEAT THAT WE HAD NOTHING TO DO WITH HIS ATTACKS ON VENEZUELA. (I HAD NOT AS YET SEEN REF B.)

4. COMMENT: I AM NOT ENTIRELY CONFIDENT THAT THE PRESIDENT BELIEVED ME SINCE, FOR ONE THING, HE READS IN HIS MORNING PAPER EVERY DAY THE SAME BIZARRE STORIES FROM WASHINGTON ABOUT THE CIA EVERYONE ELSE HERE DOES. IN ANY EVENT, IT IS CLEAR THAT SOMEONE IS MAKING TROUBLE. WE WILL SEE IF WE CAN FIND OUT QUIETLY WHO IT MIGHT BE.
SHLAUDEMAM

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